

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 061623Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7639

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0122

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, LI, UN, PCAT, PORC, UNGA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOL VIEWS ON 32ND UNGA, SSOD, ILO  
AND NIEO

REFS: (A) STATE 000207, (B) STATE 305298-77, (C) MON 7552-77

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JANUARY 5,  
S. SONI SHERMAN, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MEMBER OF THE UN  
DELEGATION TO THE 32ND UNGA, MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON  
MULTILATERAL MATTERS:

(A) 32ND UNGA: THE GOL WAS PLEASED BY WHAT IT CONSIDERED  
THE RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF POLEMICS AT THE 32ND UNGA  
COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS SESSION. THE MAJOR POWERS  
APPEARED TO BE USING MORE RESTRAINT IN THEIR CRITICISMS OF  
ONE ANOTHER AND EVEN CHINA SEEMED TO BE LESS STRIDENT IN ITS  
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DENUNCIATIONS OF THE "TWO SUPER POWERS." RESTRAINT AMONG  
THE LARGER POWERS INFLUENCED THE SMALLER NATIONS, AND AS  
A RESULT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE AT THE 32ND SESSION WAS  
IMPROVED OVER PREVIOUS SESSIONS. HE NOTED THE GOL  
CONVICTION, SHARED WITH THE U.S., THAT THE UN IS WASTING  
CONSIDERABLE SUMS ON marginally useful programs (REFTEL A).

(B) SSOD: THE GOL, THOUGH A MEMBER OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) TO BE HELD THIS SPRING, HAS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS IN GENERAL, AND CONSIDERS THEM A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY WITH NO MEASURABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD PEACE. THE GOL HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE U.S. DESIRE TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE SUPPORTING SUPPLIER-RECIPIENT COOPERATION IN RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS WITHIN CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS (REFTEL B), BUT DOUBTS THAT EITHER THESE DOCUMENTS OR THE SSOD WILL HAVE ANY IMPACT ON ARMS SALES. SHERMAN SUGGESTED THAT IF THE SUPPLIER NATIONS WANT TO RESTRAIN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, THEY SHOULD SIMPLY NOT SELL ARMS. ASKED FOR GOL SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE RESTRAINT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, SHERMAN RECOMMENDED CONCERTED AND SUSTAINED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO RESOLVE SUCH EXISTING PROBLEMS AS THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. ALTHOUGH NEGATIVE ON THE SUBJECT OF DISARMAMENT TALKS ON GENERAL, SHERMAN SAID THAT HE WAS ACCUMULATING SOURCE MATERIALS ON DISARMAMENT AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOL A NEW POLICY INITIATIVE ON DISARMAMENT TO BE PRESENTED THIS SPRING EITHER AT THE UNGA OR AT SSOD. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ENCOURAGED SHERMAN IN HIS EFFORT AND ASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER COMMENT ON ANY PROPOSALS HE MIGHT DRAFT.

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(C) ILO: SHERMAN EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO, REPEATING POINTS MADE EARLIER TO EMBASSY OFFICERS BY GOL OFFICIALS (REFTEL C). SHERMAN SAID THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL RAISED DOUBTS CONCERNING THE BASIC COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO THE CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. IT WAS UNREALISTIC, HE SAID, TO BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL MATTERS COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD BE LESS DISTURBED WHEN THESE MATTERS DO ARISE. HE SAID THAT, BECAUSE THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION HAD BEEN THE CAUSE OF SO MUCH OF THE "POLITICIZATION" WHICH HAD OCCURRED IN THE ILO, HE HOPED THAT ONE RESULT OF THE IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT WOULD BE THE RE-ENTRY OF THE U.S. INTO ACTIVE ILO MEMBERSHIP.

(C) NIEO: SHERMAN NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE GOL IS A SUPPORTER OF THE U.S. ON MOST POLITICAL ISSUES, IT WILL REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE U.S. ON MOST ECONOMIC MATTERS RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO). HE STRESSED (WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD OFTEN BEFORE) THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOL FEELS OBLIGED TO SUPPORT GROUP OF 77

POSITIONS ON NIEO MATTERS, THE GOL FREQUENTLY DOES NOT AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THESE POSITIONS BUT FINDS IT DIFFICULT FROM A PROCEDURAL POINT OF VIEW TO ENTER RESERVATIONS. ALTHOUGH GOL WISHES THAT THE U.S. COULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON THE QUESTION OF DEBT CANCELLATION, IN THE MANNER OF SOME OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, IT DOES RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAVE CAUSED THE U.S. TO INSIST ON A CASE-BY-CASE CONSIDERATION OF DEBT PROBLEMS. THE GOL, SHERMAN SAID, CLEARLY DOES NOT ACCEPT THE VIEW OF SOME EXTREMISTS IN THE GROUP OF 77 THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS ARE OBLIGED WILLY-WNILLY TO TRANSFER RESOURCES TO POORER STATES, AND BELIEVES THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE EMPHASIS AMONG LDC'S ON HARD WORK, DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS AND SACRIFICE AS THE CHIEF MEANS TO A MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROSPEROUS ECONOMY.

2. SHERMAN CONCLUDED WITH THE WISH THAT THE U.S. COULD APPEAR TO BE LESS UPSET WHEN THE PROSPECT LOOMS OF AN ADVERSE VOTE ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID THAT EACH TIME IT APPEARS THE U.S. WILL BE PLACED IN A MINORITY POSITION ON AN ISSUE, IT MOUNTS A LARGE-SCALE CAMPAIGN TO AVOID DEFEAT WHEN - SHERMAN FEELS - IT MIGHT MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION TO ACCEPT MORE GRACEFULLY THE EXPRESSION OF THE MAJORITY VIEW. HE RECOGNIZED THAT ON SOME ISSUES THE U.S. MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO AVOID AN ADVERSE VOTE, BUT STRESSES THAT IN OTHER CASES THERE MIGHT BE BENEFITS TO THE U.S. IN NOT STRAINING SO MIGHTILY AGAINST A MAJORITY.

COMMENT: THE GOL IS WELL-BRIEFED ON U.S. POSITIONS ON ALL MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND REMAINS, BOTH IDEOLOGICALLY AND IN PRACTICE, A FIRM SUPPORTER OF THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF U.S. POLICIES. IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. BUT THE GOL, BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSED CONTACTS WITH THE OTHER THIRD WORLD NATIONS, IS CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF MORE CRITICAL VIEWS OF THE U.S.. MUCH OF THE ADVICE WE RECEIVE FROM GOL OFFICIALS LIKE SHERMAN IS MEANT TO HELP THE U.S. GAIN GREATER SYMPATHY FROM LESS FRIENDLY THIRD WORLD STATES. INTELLECTUALLY, THEY WILL ACCEPT OUR ARGUMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, ON WHY THE U.S. FELT IMPELLED TO DROP ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN ILO. PRACTICALLY, THEY WISH THE U.S. COULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN ACCEPTING THE IMPERFECTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY. CARTER

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NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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## Message Attributes

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